

HOT TOPICS

Advisory Panels

Membership

- Sound science, independence and geographic diversity. (JAMES HEWITT TO SUPPLEMENT)

Grants

- The science coming from EPA should not be political science. Those who serve on an EPA advisory committee should be independent of the Agency.
- Moving forward, when membership terms expire and the agency goes through the normal course of opening up a competitive nomination process to fill vacancies on the boards, members in direct receipt of an EPA grant will have an option to either serve on board or receive the grant.

Definers Contract

- The contractor offered services not available with other outlets.
- Cost effective move (JAMES HEWITT TO SUPPLEMENT)
- EPA followed sole source procurement procedures compliant with the applicable Federal Acquisition Regulations.

Chlorpyrifos

- The science is unresolved.
- President Obama's USDA, EPA's Scientific Advisory Panel expressed concerns with EPA's approach.
- Both groups noted that the lack of access to the Columbia data created concerns and uncertainties that affected the risk assessment.

Carl Ichan

- Carl Ichan was one of many of the president's advisors that I met with during my confirmation process.

- During that meeting, I made no assurances with regard to any substantive issue.
- In response to an oversight request from EPW, EPA's Office of Environmental Information searched the EPA e-mail boxes of 39 senior leadership employees, including both political and career staff.
- There were no emails to or from any of those employees and Mr. Icahn or CVR on any subject.

Climate Change-Strategic Plan (why was it not included in the strategic plan)

- The Strategic Plan emphasizes EPA's Back to Basics Agenda, and has three goals which reflect my core philosophies: (1) Refocus the Agency on its core mission; (2) Restore power to the states through cooperative federalism; and (3) lead the Agency through improved processes and rule of law.
- This Plan is designed to strengthen EPA's ability to faithfully execute and administer environmental laws, as outlined in the statutes, in order to protect human health and the environment for all Americans.
- We all can agree that we want our future generations to inherit a cleaner, healthier environment that supports a thriving economy.

Climate Change—Removal from the Website

- An archived version of the previous administration's website is found at the top of www.epa.gov

Enforcement

- If the minority really cared about enforcement it would not have wasted time from her nomination in May until the Senate UNANIMOUSLY confirmed her in December of Susan Bodine, the Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and respected former chief counsel of this very committee under two chairmen.
- It also would not have delayed her mark-up nor reported her out of the EPW committee on a party line vote in July only to UNANIMOUSLY confirm her 6 months later.

Funding

- Value the work the DoJ attorneys do on our behalf. WE look forward to continuing to work with them.

Emails

- As I have stated and in a subsequent letter to the EPW Committee, I acknowledged the use of multiple state email addresses while serving as the Attorney General of Oklahoma.
- The agency maintains a public account (Pruitt.scott@epa.gov) for the public to communicate with me.
- Also, staff have set up secondary accounts for scheduling and my daily communications.
- ALL of my emails are subject to FOIA.

Environmental Justice

- The agency remains committed to working with low-income, minority and tribal/indigenous communities to develop solutions to the disproportionate environmental and public health challenges they face.
- Progress has been made in incorporating environmental justice considerations into the agency's core programs through the efforts of the EJ program. This progress has greatly enhanced the EPA's ability to protect the health and environment of our most vulnerable communities.
- Environmental Justice will continue to be considered within the work done at EPA and specifically incorporated into future work in the agency's Office of Policy.

War on Lead

OPA TO SUPPLEMENT

IRIS (RICHARD YAMADA PLEASE REVIEW)

- Risk assessments are not going away, the IRIS risk assessments have

historically supported a variety of EPA Programs, such as the Super Fund program.

- We are looking at how risk assessments can support TSCA and how to continue to making improvements to the IRIS program.

Murray Action Plan

- The agency does not have this proposal.

Grants Process

- We review grants to see if they are providing tangible results to the American people.
- Grant decisions are to ensure funding is in line with the Agency's mission and policy priorities.
- This was necessary to ensure the agency could conduct secure conversations with President Trump and other high ranking officials.

Meetings w Industry

- We meet with those who request meetings with us. I have met with a number of stakeholders—many of whom were ignored by the previous administration.
- My meetings have also included more than two dozen health organizations, including the Audobon Society and the American Lung Association.

Morocco (OPA PLEASE SUPPLEMENT) (cost, purpose, number of staff)

Non-Commercial Flights

- I have taken only four non-commercial flights, all of which were approved by EPA ethics officials and were for extraordinary circumstance.
- I was transparent about these flights in a detailed letter to Senator Whitehouse.

Narragansett Bay

- As I indicated in my letter to Senator Whitehouse—this was a misunderstanding and decisions about future speaking engagements will be made by the Office of Research and Development leadership.

Regulatory Task Force (OPA PLEASE SUPPLEMENT) (qualifications of members)

Reorganizations

- 3 intra-office reorgs were completed between April and June 2017: (1) Two new branches within OCSPP were created to meet increasing demand for monitoring bio pesticide ingredients, and risk assessments were centralized; (2) One ORD lab consolidated divisions and branches to reduce supervisory positions; (3) the OW consolidated the Offices of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds.
- EPA has not completed any other reorganizations since the FY 2018 budget was submitted in May 2017.
- However, we have briefed House and Senate appropriations, and EPW, on other potential reorganizations that are under either formal internal agency review or under development.
- None of these reorganizations were initiated to reduce the Agency's workforce.

Sue and Settle

- Ensuring the Agency increase transparency, improve public engagement, and provide accountability to the American public when considering a settlement agreement or consent decree.

Super Fund Task Force

- I will be happy to provide this committee with the documents produced by the Super Fund Task Force.

Travel

- My travel is for official purposes, when it is for personal time, I incur the cost.

VERA/VISIP

- 376 employees accepted our offer of voluntary buyouts. This gave long-serving and hard-working employees the opportunity to retire early.
- Our business case for requesting voluntary buyout authority from OPM/OMB focused on improving overall efficiency and effectiveness across the enterprise – we did not single out a particular program office or region.
- We continue to manage the size of our workforce through attrition, and with limited external hiring that supports high-priority work, such as implementation of TSCA.